
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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Molybdenum, Monthly

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MOLYBDENUM IN MAY 1996

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate decreased 3% in May 1996 compared with that of the previous month and was 8% less than in May 1995, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Producer molybdenum stocks in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were 8,930 metric tons at the beginning of 1996 and 12,000 metric tons at the end of April.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys (MIS) are U.S. production, shipments, and stocks of molybdenum concentrates and materials, plus U.S. consumption by end use of molybdenum in May 1996. Also included are trade data for April 1996. During May, Platt's Metals Week U.S. monthly average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.409 per kilogram (\$2.000 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$6.945 per kilogram (\$3.150 per pound) and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$10.472 per kilogram (\$4.750 per pound).

For the week ending July 12, 1996, Metals Week U.S. average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.409 per kilogram (\$2.000 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$7.330 per kilogram (\$3.325 per pound) and that for ferromolybdenum was \$10.031 per kilogram (\$4.550 per pound).

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Item	1995 p/	1996		
		April	May	Year to date 2/
Production	58,000	5,160	4,980	24,400
Shipments: 3/				
Domestic	13,700	1,570	1,310	6,700
Export	18,600	1,480	1,450	7,320

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

3/ As reported by producers.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS
IN MAY 1996 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdc oxides	Ferro molyb- denum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molyb- denum scrap	Other	Total
Steel:						
Carbon	450	W	--	--	W	450
Stainless and heat-resisting	2,030	98	--	--	W	2,130
Full alloy	2,490	1,270	--	--	45	3,810
High-strength low-alloy	336	212	--	--	--	548
Tool	795	46	--	--	W	841
Cast irons	17	554	--	--	W	571
Superalloys	779	W	--	418	453	1,650
Alloys:						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	W	W
Other alloys 3/	W	W	--	5	W	5
Mill products made from metal power	--	--	--	--	2,020	2,020
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	10	--	--	10
Catalysts	773	--	W	--	W	773
Other	W	--	--	--	W	W
Miscellaneous and unspecified	14	1,760	788	--	591	3,160
Total	7,690	3,950	798	423	3,110	16,000
Stocks, May 31, 1996	4,150	1,590	97	550	8,100	15,500

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Miscellaneous and unspecified."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium molybdate.

3/ Includes magnetic and nonferrous alloys.

TABLE 3
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Product	1995 p/	1996		
		April	May	Year to date 2/
Gross production	46,000	4,100	3,990	19,700
Molybdenum product 3/ used to make other products	23,100	2,050 r/	1,910	9,830
Shipments	24,000	2,190	2,250	10,100

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

3/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 4
U. S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORE AND CONCENTRATE
(Including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1995 p/	1996		Year to date
		March	April	
Australia	650	--	--	120
Belgium	103,000	17,100	10,100	54,700
Brazil	1,580	10	--	190
Canada	7,590	187	204	661
Chile	62,900	3,010	5,930	18,900
China	--	190	--	190
France	--	6	--	6
Germany	7,700	224	739	1,530
Italy	1,370	--	--	432
Japan	54,900	3,690	6,070	17,900
Korea, Republic of	2	--	--	--
Mexico	40,400	3,930	3,100	19,400
Netherlands	112,000	2,730	3,730	17,600
Singapore	1	--	--	--
Spain	121	--	--	--
Sweden	6,300	--	--	1,540
Switzerland	324	--	--	--
Taiwan	6	--	--	--
United Kingdom	47,400	5,020	9,600	24,900
Venezuela	5	--	--	--
Total	446,000	36,100	39,500	158,000

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1995 p/	1996		Year to date
		March	April	
Australia	8	--	--	--
Canada	2,230	205	257	1,320
China	2	--	--	--
Egypt	9	--	--	--
Japan	1,050	172	227	1,440
Korea, Republic of	21	--	11	20
Malaysia	461	--	--	621
Mexico	2,110	105	237	558
Netherlands	737	--	--	--
Singapore	--	110	104	278
Spain	234	--	--	--
Taiwan	485	--	--	--
Venezuela	27	3	11	13
Total	7,350	594	847	4,250

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Hundred kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Material	1995			1996		
	January-December			January-April		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrates roasted	74,300	47,800	\$73,400	22,500	15,600	\$13,400
Ore and concentrates other	15,000	7,930	8,040	170	104	89
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	9,180	NA	11,400	2,150	NA	1,930
Molybdates of ammonium	3,450	1,860	2,880	2,710	1,310	2,440
Molybdates (all others)	540	420	285	423	191	261
Molybdenum orange	6,740	NA	2,270	6,380	NA	1,930
Mixtures of inorganic compounds	6	5	130	--	--	--
Ferromolybdenum	65,500	41,900	74,600	35,100	22,200	26,700
Molybdenum powders	1,950	1,460	5,590	281	278	831
Molybdenum unwrought	1,310	1,020	3,560	421	386	1,120
Molybdenum waste and scrap	4,530	4,300	6,310	3,230	3,110	4,670
Molybdenum wrought	--	--	--	--	--	--
Molybdenum wire	11	NA	277	4	NA	68
Molybdenum other	27	NA	993	11	NA	307
Total	183,000	107,000	190,000	73,400	43,200	53,700

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.